

PRÉCIS

Patients with metastatic melanoma will be immunized with recombinant vaccinia and fowlpox viruses encoding the melanoma associated antigen tyrosinase, following which they will be treated with a standard regimen of high dose IL-2. Patients will be eligible for this protocol regardless of HLA type, since tyrosinase contains multiple immunogenic peptides recognized by CD4+ and CD8+ T cells in the context of a variety of HLA alleles. The two poxviruses will be administered intramuscularly on an alternating schedule (heterologous prime/boost) designed to minimize immune reactions against viral proteins and maximize responses against the tyrosinase transgene. In this phase II therapy trial, patients will be evaluated for clinical as well as immunological responses. The observed clinical response rate will be compared to the historical CR+PR rate of 15% for melanoma patients treated with high dose IL-2 alone.